

The RICHMOND REVIEW

Vol. 8 No. 11

FREE

August 1996

Sweet Singing Sounds Abound

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Dredging Mountain Lake may damage fragile habitat

by Kleyton Jones

When Corinne Burrell was in sixth grade more than 20 years ago, she used to fly off a rope swing and plunge into the cooling waters of Mountain Lake, one of the last remaining natural lakes in San Francisco.

Today, Burrell takes her own children to the lake — but the branch that once held her swing is now too far from the water to provide the same thrill for another generation — because Mountain Lake is shrinking.

A combination of man-made fill from the construction of Park Presidio Boulevard and the buildup of dead algae and runoff is gradually silting in the lake. The once-blue waters are now a mucky brown, and thick reeds choke the shores, steadily creeping toward the center of the lake as it becomes shallower.

Richmond residents who love the lake are concerned for its future, but they are equally concerned that massive dredging — one of the solutions being contemplated to prevent the lake from turning into a swamp — would destroy the fragile ecosystem which makes Mountain Lake such a special place.

"I've been coming to this lake for many years, and I don't see how much difference dredging it is going to make," Burrell said. "The park would look horrible

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Ballet break



Photo: Darrell Wong

Hadley Suter, 11, (left) shares a laugh with Sonia Evers, 10, during their eurhythmics class at the SF Ballet School on Franklin Street July 17. See story about the Ballet's summer program on page 9.

Toxic cleanup continues at old Marine Hospital Site off Lake St. may become convention center

by Valerie May

The old Marine Hospital complex at 15th Avenue in the Presidio is undergoing an extensive facelift, including a yearlong program of hazardous waste removal.

The job will be done under the auspices of the Army Corps of Engineers and the National Park Service (NPS), after which the

NPS will look for tenants for the site.

How much of the cleanup work will be paid for by the buildings' former tenants, the U.S. Army, has not been established. Statements issued by the Department of Defense (DOD) have signalled a reluctance to bear much of the cost.

At issue is how liable the Army should be when a change

in land use prompts a need for a higher standard of cleanup. At this point it is unclear how much responsibility the DOD will accept to clean up the hazardous wastes left behind at closed military bases.

"The realistic future land use of a site needs to be considered early in the process," said a DOD response to a U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee inquiry. "Any additional response action required as a result of a change in land use should be borne by the party seeking the change."

One of the unresolved issues delaying the Army's cleanup report is groundwater contamination.

Contaminants at the site include asbestos, lead-based paints and fuel oil from 27,000 linear feet of underground pipes and storage tanks.

Removal of the hazardous wastes at the 37-acre complex began in June and is scheduled to be completed by April 1997. Once the cleanup is complete, the NPS is to take over the building.

The general contractor, 70-year-old hazardous waste remediation and engineering company International Technology Corp. (ITC), was hired for the project in 1995. ITC will oversee contractors and consultants Forensics Analytical of Hayward and Versar Inc. of Alameda, which will test air samples for

asbestos fibers.

The NPS promises minimal disruption to the surrounding neighborhood. According to a NPS bulletin, all the work will be done indoors, quietly and safely, by workers trained in federally established guidelines for hazardous waste removal.

Up to 60 workers will work Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. to 3 p.m., according to the bulletin. A small second shift will work from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m., and a security guard is to watch over the site at night and on weekends. The NPS further promises that garbage trucks will come around only during daylight hours, but not during peak commute hours.

Contamination from fuel oil stems from an underground fuel pipeline constructed by the Army in the Presidio around 1900, of which 27,000 feet remain. By 1997 25,000 feet are to be removed, with the remaining 2,000 feet to be abandoned in place.

The Presidio converted to PG&E's natural gas in the early 1940s, leaving its many fuel storage facilities to the processes of corrosion.

Waste from the site, assures

Continued on page 10

50th anniversary celebration

Geary merchants throw big bash, debut new Internet web site

by Paul Kozakiewicz

The Geary Boulevard merchants association celebrated its 50 years in existence by throwing a grand bash.

The event, held at the Miyako Hotel in Japantown July 30, was attended by about 200 people. Highlights of the luncheon included a cabaret-style act by pianist David Austin and Marsha Merchant, who sang in the Broadway production of "Cats," and a demonstration of the new World Wide Web site debuted by the Geary merchants.

Honored at the meeting was Mary Patterson, 90, who founded the association in 1946. Her sons, George and Steven, who still run the family business, Superior Business Services, have also served time for the merchants' association over the years.

"When Mary wanted something done, it got done," said supervisorial candidate Carolene Marks, who spoke highly of the strong-willed Patterson, whom she has known for decades.

Many of the speakers spoke of the importance of small businesses in the communities where they are located.

"Small business is the cornerstone of business in this City," said City Mayor Willie Brown.

"If the merchants are doing well, the City's doing well," added District Attorney Terence Hallinan. "And if not ... not."

Merchant sang a medley of San Francisco favorites, including "I Left My Heart in San Francisco," and created several new songs using music from other hits. Her rendition of "New York, New York" was peppered with references

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Proponents of Veterans Boulevard proposal need to 'get act together'

by Lisa Leung

San Francisco Supervisor Tom Ammiano proposed at the SF Board of Supervisors meeting June 24 to rename Park Presidio Boulevard "Veterans Boulevard," in honor of the 30,523 veterans who are laid to rest at the nearby San Francisco National Cemetery.

Jim Lineberger, president of the Veterans Affairs Council, the group that originated the proposal, said, "The board will meet in September to decide (on the name change), but there are no residents or businesses on Park Presidio Boulevard, so there shouldn't be a problem."

Glen Manriquez, a Richmond District resident, said, "Changing the name of this historic site would be ridiculous. I don't see the point in it — if it's not broken, don't fix it."

Ron Miguel, president of the Planning Association for the Richmond (PAR), has "no objections to small streets in honor of famous names, events, etc., but when it comes to name changes of major streets (i.e. Cesar Chavez/Army Street) there should be more talk about it."

The idea was originally Wallace Levin's of the Veterans Affairs Council, located inside the War Memorial Building.



Photo: Philip Liborio Gang

A proposal is underway to change the name of Park Presidio Boulevard to Veterans Boulevard in honor of veterans who are buried at the former Presidio Army Post's cemetery.

After repeated phone calls, however, Levin could not be reached for comment.

When asked if Ammiano's office had his number, one of Ammiano's aides responded, "We've checked all our Rolodexes and seem to have misplaced his number."

Ammiano Administrative Assistant Mike Housh says, "It's all up to Wallace Levin and the people at the Veterans Affairs Council to put together all the paperwork — we're just waiting for them to get their act together."

Park Presidio Boulevard has a long history. Presidio means "garrison" or "fortified barracks" in Spanish. The street was named because it is adjacent to the Presidio military post. The Presidio was founded in 1776 by the Spanish.

The Planning Association for the Richmond plans to be present in all matters of the name change. PAR is the largest neighborhood organization, dealing in everything from planning to zoning issues that concern the Richmond District. It currently has 2,000 members.

Geary Blvd. Merchants celebrate 50th

Continued from page 1

to the City and its famous fog.

For the debut of the Greater Geary Boulevard Merchants and Property Owners new web site, Brown was present to "cut the electronic ribbon."

The new web site features a list of businesses along the Geary business corridor, a message from Richmond Station Police Capt. Jerry DeFilippo, news about the District's monthly Community/Police Forum and general news, which will include a profile of an "officer of the month" from the Richmond District.

The 50th anniversary luncheon was arranged by David Heller, president of the Geary merchants' association.

Besides Brown, Hallinan, Marks and DeFilippo, also present at the luncheon was a number of other well-known city luminaries, including former San Francisco Mayor Frank Jordan, supervisors Kevin Shelley (keynote speaker), Barbara Kaufman and Michael Yaki, Chief of Police Fred Lau, Deputy Chief of Police Earl Sanders, SF Police Cmdr. Richard Holder, Redevelopment Commission President Dahr Singh, former su-

pervisor and chief of police Richard Hongisto and Planning Association for the Richmond President Ron Miguel.

The merchants also received proclamations from state senators Quentin Kopp and Milton Marks, and U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein sent a letter which was read to the crowd.

Honored among the approximately 1,400 businesses that comprise the Geary merchants' association were 23 who have served the community for the past 25 years or more.

They are: Adolph Gasser; Bacci & Bacci; Bank of America; Wells Fargo Bank; Bay View Federal Bank; Cala Foods (formerly the Little Man market); Dave Sullivan's Sport Shop; Ellis

Brooks Chevrolet; Family Billiards; Foreign Car Repair; Gaspere's Pizza House; Geary Cleaners; House of Flowers; House of Bagels; Gables; K & G Jewelry; Mr. "B" Sewing Center; Shenson's Delicatessen; Superior Business Services; Tigges Jewelry; Tip-Toe Delicatessen and Tommy's Mexican Restaurant.

After the luncheon, some members of the Geary merchants were whisked away on a motorized cable car for a tour of the boulevard that has been, they say, a good home.

To access the Greater Geary Boulevard and Property Owners' Association web site, dial up its temporary "address" at <http://geary.worldtouch.com>.

Merchants give cops \$600

The SF Police Commission voted June 24 to accept a \$600 donation from the Greater Geary Boulevard Merchants and Property Owners Association for the purpose of purchasing new uniforms and equipment for Richmond Station bike patrol officers.

"It's a marvelous partnership between the businesses of Geary and the station," Capt. Jerry

DeFilippo of the Richmond Station said. "Currently there are six bike patrol officers on duty and they work mostly the day shifts. Mainly we patrol the businesses around Geary Boulevard and are looking to expand."

David Heller, merchants association president, presented the check July 30, and the supply of new uniforms and equipment will be delivered soon.

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City replaces fill in sinkhole caused by winter storm

Race to finish sewer project

by Valerie May

The City is hastening to finish installing the Richmond Transport Tunnel (RTT) before the rainy season arrives, while shoring up the yawning pit exposed by the excavation of a Sea Cliff home devoured by December 1995's disastrous sinkhole.

The RTT is expected to be installed and connected by mid-November, after which the area is to be landscaped. Meanwhile, the City is coordinating several projects in the area at once, including connecting the six-foot 24th Avenue brick sewer and the new West Clay sewer to the RTT. The City is also removing debris from a collapsed home along with the temporary emergency fill that was placed in the hillside abyss last year.

"We're killing two birds with one stone," said Department of Public Works Project Manager James Chia.

The RTT will cost the City roughly \$33 million, as estimated by Chia. The damage caused by the sinkhole is at about \$5 million, he said, including a 24th Avenue connection to the RTT.

Once the walls of the excavation are lined by timber planks secured by steel tiebacks, the remainder of the fallen house's foundation will be removed. Then, engineered fill will be used to return the hillside to its former topography and the area will be re-vegetated.

The fill, composed of non-organic material specifically graded to be suitable for structural support, will be compacted at vari-

ous levels so that it does not move, said project coordinator Larry Wong of the Department of Public Works.

It will be at 90 percent compaction, which is the city standard, said Chia.

The blue house hanging out over the precipice at 25th Avenue and El Camino del Mar has been saved, said Chia. "We underpinned it, so the owner can rebuild it," he said.

Time is a crucial factor in the project because the 17th Avenue and 22nd Avenue sewers are susceptible to becoming inundated with rainwater. Work hours, Monday through Saturday, while generally 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., may be expanded from as early as 6 a.m. to as late as 10 p.m.

Several backhoes, drill rigs and dump trucks working in concert have been causing a lot of vibrations and noise.

"As far as all the vibrations levels," said Wong, "there's no danger of structural damage. There could be cosmetic damage, plaster cracking. Of course, it's very annoying."

Access on 24th Avenue north of Lake Street has been limited during the project as crews worked in the area.

The two-mile-long RTT is expected to handle excessive rainfall, delivering the runoff and raw sewage to a sewer treatment plant rather than directly into the ocean. The 14-foot-wide tunnel's east portal is in the Presidio; its west portal is near the Great Highway under Sutro Heights Park. The RTT lies 39 to 320 feet underground and runs under El Camino Del Mar, Lincoln Park



Photo: Darrell Wong

Construction crews work to replace temporary fill put in a sinkhole created in last December's winter storms with more stable materials.

and the Palace of the Legion of Honor to Ocean Beach.

The sinkhole occurred when a 100-year-old brick sewer failed at 24th Avenue — a sewer that was inspected by the City in 1994 and found to be in good condition.

Blame for the sinkhole catastrophe will be hard to pin, as much of the evidence of the event was washed away. But Failure Analysis Associates Inc., the firm hired by the City to investigate the cause of the sinkhole, does not blame RTT construction work.

Since the location of the failed brick sewer was about 70 feet south and more than 20 feet above the RTT, said Failure Analysis' report, the effect of

RTT construction was "negligible."

The report said vibrations may have contributed to the sinkhole, but not vibrations coming from tour buses or from El Camino del Mar.

If anything, it said, vibrations from the construction of a driveway of the house that ended up sliding into the sinkhole may have affected the site. The driveway was being reconstructed, from October 1995 until the sinkhole event, to support heavy machinery needed to do sewer work accessible from the property.

The report did not find supportable a commonly heard hypothesis that a closed gate to an overflow structure blocked the flow of the sewer to enough to

cause it to fail.

Nor did the report blame the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake.

Likely causes for the sinkhole, the report said, start with "constriction" of the failed brick sewer by the 1995 construction of an underground chamber — the overflow structure — built beneath Sea Cliff Avenue in 1995. Excavation of a 24th Avenue sewer tunnel may have contributed to the cracks in the brick sewer, from which pressurized water leaked. Then came a relaxation of soil support and erosion "aggravated by the highly erodible nature" of the area's dune sand.

The remainder of the 100-year-old brick sewer, between Sea Cliff Avenue and Lake Street, is in good condition.



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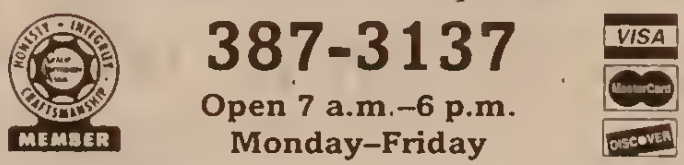


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San Francisco's stunning physical attributes, its cultural diversity and tolerance, its educated and entrepreneurial work force, its strong commitment to social justice all mean we sometimes believe the world is our oyster.

But at the two-day Economic Summit I convened in April, San Francisco took a good hard look at its economic future. We found great opportunities and great challenges. We also found we have much work to do.

The summit brought together groups and factions who in the past have found little to say to one another. Business leaders from major corporations, small neighborhood businesses, national and local labor leaders, presidential cabinet members, academics, economists, activists and informed citizens all came to the table. They found common ground for future dialogue.

The event began with a tone

Economic summit points the way

Mayor Willie Brown



of optimism. The AFL-CIO Housing Investment Trust announced it would invest \$100 million in three housing and commercial developments in San Francisco. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros announced a \$4.5 million grant for a nine-story affordable housing apartment building next to Glide Memorial Church in the Tenderloin.

And our speakers kept coming back to three key elements which are necessary to foster a strong economy: 1) a high quality of life for residents and visitors, 2) a synergy between large and small businesses, and 3) an economic strategy that plays to our strengths.

Together, we can accomplish these things. But talk without action is counterproductive. Now it

is time to gather the ideas, advice, challenges and opportunities that emerged from the Economic Summit and put them to practical use.

To that end, I am introducing a five-point action plan, which I believe we must implement immediately in order to build a vibrant, inclusive economy for all San Franciscans:

Streamline Regulatory Processes

In order to improve efficiency and build a strong relationship between the public and private sectors, I plan to create a new Office of Economic Development that will coordinate and consolidate all economic development functions into a single, central effort. I will appoint an "economic czar" to head this new office, a person with extensive experience and respect in the business community. One of the director's jobs will be to develop a business retention plan and a more "cus-

Continued on page 7

Central Fwy. loss may cause traffic madness for Richmond commuters

by Peter Sciacca

A panel of representatives from Caltrans, the Department of Parking and Traffic, Muni and the Citizen Advisory Task Force held a public meeting July 24 at the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce Boardroom to discuss tearing down the Central Freeway's upper deck and the work's impact on drivers.

Removal of the deck is expected to cause a traffic catastrophe, with some 76,000 vehicles a day being forced onto surface-street detours while work takes place.

With \$40 million to \$50 million already allocated from the government for the project, which could end up costing \$160 million to \$170 million, seismic retrofitting work has already begun on sections of the freeway.

The Penthal Corp., which won the bid to demolish the top-deck portion of the freeway, could begin work as soon as Aug. 26.

Paul Hensley, district division chief of operations for Caltrans, said, "By taking off the top deck, two-thirds of the deadweight load will be removed from the structure, making it safer."

"The timeline of project completion depends on two factors," Hensley said. "We have to see if an environmental document is necessary and which of four alternatives will provide the most



Richmond District eastbound drivers will detour on Gough Street, cross Market and Mission streets and enter the highway at South Van Ness Avenue. Westbound drivers will exit at Ninth Street and cross Market to Hayes Street.

comparable service (to what currently exists). Once we close the freeway, we will be looking at all options and adapt accordingly."

Hensley also added that commuters on Caltrans' mailing list will receive information by mid-August advising them of detours that will be put in place once the work begins.

"By moving the divider on Fell Street, an additional lane will be created which will be used as a detour," said Gerald

Robbins, transportation planner for Parking and Traffic.

"Golden Gate Avenue is another detour being considered because of its carrying capacity," Robbins said. "Also, a third lane will be added at Sixth and Market."

"The freeway will be closed for four months while work takes place one section at a time," Robbins added. "We are encour-

Continued on page 5

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Greater unity sought to combat District crime

Goal is to empower neighborhood

by Vincent Pearson

Acting under the assumption that tightly-knit, well organized communities are effective deterrents against crime and violence, outreach coordinators across the City, including the Richmond District, are helping residents work together to make their neighborhoods safer.

The coordinators come from the San Francisco Neighborhood Safety Partnership (SFNSP), a city-government funded organization composed of 12 "safety outreach workers" and 11 city agencies. With one outreach coordinator per police district, two language specialists and enough expertise among the various agencies to address virtually any social ill, NSP is a valuable ally for citizen activists who want to organize but do not know where to begin.

The goal is to empower neighborhoods, making them less dependent on the police and other city agencies and less intimidated by the complexity of the city bureaucracy.

NSP functions as an information center. The safety outreach workers help residents respond to problems in their neighborhoods through networking, training and referrals. The partner agencies offer a wide range of free pro-

gramming.

Collaborating agencies include: Chinatown Youth Center, Community Boards, Community United Against Violence, Ingleside Community Center, Intergroup Clearing House, Mission Housing Development Corporation, OMI-Neighbors in Action, San Francisco Safety Awareness for Everyone (SAFE), Senior Action Network, St. John's Educational Thresholds Center and Visitation Valley Community Center.

Neighborhood Safety Partnership is the key component of the long-awaited Neighborhood Crime Prevention Program created under Proposition Q. Under the 1994 initiative, San Francisco voters allocated \$900,000 annually (for the fiscal years 1995-96 through 1997-98) to put crime prevention specialists/outreach coordinators in every neighborhood in the City.

The factors that contribute to crime often include a lack of resident organization and participation, insufficient job and recreational opportunities for youth, tensions between adults and youth, badly maintained properties, inadequate street lighting and inadequate police presence, according to the text of Proposition Q.

The program is still in its be-

ginning phase, but the pace is beginning to pick up.

ginning phase, but the pace is beginning to pick up.

Efforts in the Richmond

"We've been out in the neighborhoods, walking precincts, doing needs assessment, convening focus groups, responding to things happening in the community, and so the project is starting to pick up steam," says Thomas Lee, the safety outreach worker in the Richmond District.

"On the surface," says Lee, "the Richmond seems like a quiet neighborhood. But there are high rates of burglary, robbery, car theft, and recently there has been a homicide and a rape." He adds that ethnic tensions continue to be a concern.

One example is the frequently rocky relationship between the Chinese shop and restaurant owners on Clement Street and the surrounding neighbors who have complained for years about health code and other violations along the street.

Lee has responded by facilitating a focus meeting with the Chinese shop owners and discovered that many of them did not understand the laws well enough to comply. As a result, he says, they felt persecuted.

"Many of the regulations aren't clear or translated into Chinese, so the merchants feel they are being picked on," says Lee. "So, I got them (the merchants) together to explain the laws and ordinances. It's an attempt to create a better relationship between the shop owners, the residents and police."

Another example of the way NSP works is the Richmond Neighborhood Safety Forum, which as of press time is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Aug. 1. The meeting is a response to a recent string of break-ins in the Richmond, which in one case involved a sexual assault.

The meeting is free for all Richmond residents who would like to attend, and features lec-

tures on sexual assault prevention skills, tips to secure homes, personal safety techniques and information on self-defense classes. A similar meeting will be scheduled for sometime in mid-August.

Lee is currently organizing a Community Leadership Training Workshop which will be held for the benefit of would-be neighborhood leaders who would like to organize their neighborhoods but are not sure how to do it.

"Many of these crimes are preventable," says Lee, "but the police are limited in terms of staff. When people get organized, they get to know each other and that fosters a better sense of community. And that," he says, "is how you deter crime."

The Richmond District Community Leadership Training Workshop will be held on Aug. 8, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Those interested in attending can call Thomas Lee at 553-1962, Ext. 10.

Canine clean-up



Photo: Philip Liborio Gangi

Richmond District resident Shek Gong has trained his pet dog Beth to help keep Clement Street clean by picking up litter and depositing it in garbage cans. Here Beth is depositing litter in a trash can at Clement Street and Seventh Avenue.

Central Freeway plan

Continued from page 4

aging people to use alternative transportation such as bicycles."

Steven Berard, from the community affairs department of Muni, said, "We won't be able to add more buses during the project, but the 66 and 71 bus lines will have additional supervision."

Ephraim Hirsch, chairman of the Citizen's Advisory Task Force, said "In reviewing the condition of this structure (the freeway's upper deck), fatal flaws were found. It must come down. Only replacing the deck on will only perpetuate traffic problems," Hirsch said. "Any alternative has to address traffic and safety issues."

Shortly before the meeting

ended, Hensley said optimistically: "We have started historical and architectural studies. We will survive this. It won't be a total gridlock and people will be able to get in and out of the City."

Eastbound drivers using Oak Street will detour at Gough Street and enter the Central Freeway at South Van Ness Avenue. Westbound drivers heading to the Richmond District will exit at Ninth Street and cross Market Street onto Hayes Street to Franklin Street. From there, Fulton Street or Golden Gate Avenue may be the best alternative route.

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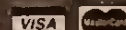
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Carrying a Concealed Firearm, Possession of a Loaded Firearm, July 16, 3:41 a.m., Fulton Street and Eighth Avenue

Two officers on patrol saw that a car traveling east on Fulton Street near 18th Avenue carried three suspects on only two available seats. They thought one of the right front passengers was not wearing a seat belt.

Upon closer inspection, it appeared that the suspects were trying to conceal an object, and that the driver also may not have been wearing a seat belt.

The officers stopped the car at Fulton Street and Eighth Avenue. A computer check revealed that the three suspects had been arrested numerous times for felonies, including robberies and conspiracy. One of the suspects was reported to have potential for resisting arrest.

The officers pat-searched the suspects for weapons and did not find any. Under the car's passenger seat, however, was a handgun loaded with 9mm rounds, and under the driver's floorboard mat was a \$100 bill that may have been counterfeit because it had an unusual texture and rough edges. The three suspects were booked.

Burglary of a Safe, July 15, 2:30 a.m. to 7:20 a.m., 3900 Block of Geary Boulevard

An employee of the establishment locked the safe, rooms and front door at 2:30 a.m. before

leaving.

The reportee, another employee, arrived at the establishment at 7:20 a.m. and discovered the front door padlock latch and the left door handle were pried and detached from the door, which was left open approximately six inches. The chain lock on the door handles was still intact.

The lock and jam of the door to the inner office was broken, and the office was left in disarray. The victim, the owner of the establishment, said the office safe was also opened but was undamaged and apparently was not missing any money. Three plastic bags of money left on the safe were also undisturbed.

The drawers to a filing cabinet and desk in the office were left open and rifled through. A loaded .38-caliber revolver in a holster was missing from a shelf.

The lock and door jam of two other rooms were broken, and both rooms were also in disarray, although nothing appeared to have been taken.

Possession of a Prohibited Weapon, Malicious Mischief (Graffiti), July 12, 5:54 p.m., Anza and Cook streets

A witness stopped two offi-

cers at Anza and Stanyan streets to report that four juvenile suspects were doing graffiti. The suspects walked away from a graffiti-covered wall on a school's property, passed between parked cars and walked into the street, at which time the officers detained them.

A pat search revealed the first suspect carried brass knuckles and the second suspect carried pepper spray. A green marker, which the second suspect allegedly used to write graffiti on the wall, was found on the ground in between cars the suspects passed earlier.

The first two suspects were cited and the other two were not. The second suspect had a felony on his record. Because the graffiti featured letters, the officers suspected gang affiliation.

Burglary of a Residence, Unlawful Entry, Juvenile-Related, July 10, 3 p.m. to 7:45 p.m., 2000 Block of Cabrillo Street

The juvenile victim returned home, on the 2000 block of Cabrillo Street, and noticed that his stereo and speaker were missing from the garage. He was also missing his cassette player and his desk drawers were open and had been rummaged through.

Later two officers responded to a report of eight suspects trying to break into the garage of a house in the 600 block of 20th Avenue. They did not find suspects on arriving, but were updated that the suspects were heading toward 21st Avenue and Cabrillo Street, some on foot and some on bicycles.

They found four juveniles matching the descriptions given on the 600 block of 23rd Avenue. Of these four, two were held for

questioning — the first suspect carried a stereo and cassette player, and the second suspect had a speaker. One of the two who were released from the scene carried a camera that police later learned might have belonged to the victim.

The first suspect told police that he met some people, some of whom he did not know, at Sixth Avenue and California Street, and someone suggested going to garages to steal bikes.

They entered one garage but did not take anything. They then entered the garage of the house on the 2000 block of Cabrillo Street where he took the stereo. The juvenile who managed to open the garage door took a cassette player and sold it to him for \$5.

The second suspect, however, told police that he met several people, some of whom he did not know, at 10th Avenue and California Street, including the first suspect. Three of them were on bikes and were ahead of the rest of the group. He said when he arrived at the house on the 2000 block of Cabrillo Street, those on bikes were already there and the garage door was open. He went into the garage and took the speaker, but did not see the first suspect take the stereo, although he later saw him carrying it. He added that others in the group took a cassette player, camera and tape recorder.

The two suspects were cited. The victim had his stereo, cassette player and speaker returned, but not the camera, because the suspect who might have taken it did not hand it over to police.

Burglary of an Apartment House, Unlawful Entry, July 9, 11:58 a.m., 400 Block of 43rd Avenue

The victim left her apartment unlocked and went upstairs for approximately 45 minutes. When she returned home, her door was locked and music was playing loudly inside.

When she knocked on the door, the suspect answered, wearing the victim's sweatshirt

and putting on her socks. The suspect said he had taken a shower in the apartment and that he had a friend who used to live there. He also opened the victim's mail and applied her perfume.

When the victim ordered him to leave, the suspect obeyed, taking with him her sweatshirt and socks, but leaving his underpants, insole and two pairs of socks in her bathroom. The victim called 911, and the suspect was last seen walking on 43rd Avenue at Geary Boulevard and Point Lobos Avenue.

An officer found the suspect on the 600 block of 42nd Avenue and told him to stop and put his hands on top of his head. "No, you're going to have to shoot me!" the suspect said. "Go ahead and kill me!"

The officer repeated his order and the suspect again refused, responding, "Nobody's putting their hands on me! The first one that touches me is going down!"

The suspect finally stopped resisting arrest when backup officers arrived on the scene to handcuff him, and he was later booked. Crime scene investigators responded to the victim's apartment for fingerprinting.

Passing Forged U.S. Currency, Possession of Narcotics and Narcotics Paraphernalia, July 7, 10:07 p.m., 700 Block of Clement Street

The suspect entered the establishment at about 9 p.m. carrying a bag that the first employee thought would be used to shoplift.

The suspect then nervously approached a second employee to pay for items totalling \$71.42. The suspect handed over bills and change.

The second employee noticed that the paper of two \$20 bills did not feel the same as that of the other bills. She gave the suspected bills to the third employee, who used a counterfeit bill identification marker to confirm that they were forged.

When the suspect tried to pass off another forged bill, the first employee called 911 and held the suspect for police. The suspect, who had an outstanding warrant, was later booked.

A search of the suspect's bag revealed items including syringes and suspected cocaine, tar heroin and marijuana.

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July 26 was one of those bittersweet days for the Richmond Police Station with the retirement of Lt. Joseph Giacomini. Joe, a native San Franciscan, joined the San Francisco Police Department in 1967. He served as a patrol officer at the Central and Richmond stations. Joe was promoted to the rank of sergeant in 1980 and was assigned to the Communications Division as a supervisor.

He returned to the Richmond station in 1989 as a patrol sergeant. On June 16, 1995, he assumed the duties of one of the day watch lieutenants assigned to the Richmond station. Over the years, he has been recognized by his commanding officers by being the recipient of many written Captain's Commendations and two Bronze Medals of Valor for service to his community above and beyond the call of duty.

The leadership that Joe provided to the officers at Richmond station is clearly reflected in the quality of service provided. Chief Fred Lau just released the crime report for June and once again the Richmond has achieved a significant reduction. When compared to June 1995, there is a reduction of 38.83 percent and a year-to-date reduction of 19.11 percent.

I know each of you join with all of us in wishing Joe a long and happy retirement.



Police Beat

Capt. Jerome DeFilippo

Richmond District Police Station

The Police Department recently awarded several officers with Medals of Valor for their heroic actions at Pine and Franklin streets on the evening of Nov. 13, 1995, during the tragic shooting incident that took the life of Officer James Guelff. Sgt. Michael Dempsey, of the Richmond Police Station, was awarded a Bronze Medal of Valor. Mike, like his two brothers, followed in the footsteps of their father, retired Capt. Thomas Dempsey. I know they, like all of us, are proud of him.

Health Issues

One of the main topics in last month's article was the conditions on Clement Street. As I told you, the Richmond station is taking an active role in the enforcement of all the regulations concerning traffic and various health issues. I am also pleased to report that other city agencies are now involved. Supervisor Barbara Kaufman, who sponsored the regulating legislation, has once again intervened to meet the needs of the community. She was the moving factor in the formation of a task force comprised of the departments of Public Health, Street Cleaning, Police, and

Parking and Traffic. The task force is headed by Dr. Johnson Ojo of the Department of Public Health. On June 25, the first in a series of workshops with each of these agencies and the Clement Street merchants was held. We are moving forward on the issues, and each month I will give you an update of our progress.

One of our most effective programs in the Community Policing Program is the use of bicycles for patrol of populated and business districts. Most of you have seen them on Clement Street and Geary Boulevard. We have several officers who have been trained for bicycle patrol and have an inventory of serviceable bikes on hand. As a result of budget constraints, however, we have been unable to equip these officers properly, and therefore have not taken advantage of this tool.

But David Heller, president of the Greater Geary Boulevard Merchants and Property Owners Association, has come to our aid again. The association has donated \$600 to be used for the purchase of required uniform and safety equipment to put another officer on the street. Many thanks from the station.

Our next community meeting will be on Aug. 20 at 7 p.m. in the community meeting room behind the station. I look forward to seeing you there.

Mayor Brown

Continued from page 4.

tomor-friendly" planning and building inspection process.

Promote Small Businesses

I have recently sworn in a new Small Business Advisory Commission that reflects the diversity of small businesses in San Francisco and will soon appoint a liaison from the mayor's office to assist the commission in achieving three main goals: 1) creating a Small Business Service Center, 2) creating a small business capi-

tal fund and 3) reforming city purchasing procedures, so that local firms will have an advantage in bidding for city contracts.

Stimulate Construction of Affordable Housing

I want to attract investment funds to San Francisco for the development of affordable and market-rate housing, which is a major building block to a healthy economy. To that end, I have placed on the November ballot a bond measure that will provide \$100 million for affordable hous-

ing. If passed by the voters, the AFL-CIO National Housing Trust and some major banks have indicated a willingness to match all low-interest loans coming from that bond. A portion of these funds will also be used to help San Francisco firefighters, police officers and teachers purchase their homes in the City.

Stimulate Growth Among Current Businesses and Encourage New Enterprises

We will tap into the wealth of brain-power of our citizens and retain existing jobs while creating new ones by identifying growth industries — such as multimedia, bioscience, movie making and advanced technology — and identifying new business development sites — such as Treasure Island, the Presidio and Hunters Point Naval Shipyard. We will also take a look at creating special enterprise zones and study demonstration projects in other communities.

Coordinate Job Training and Placement

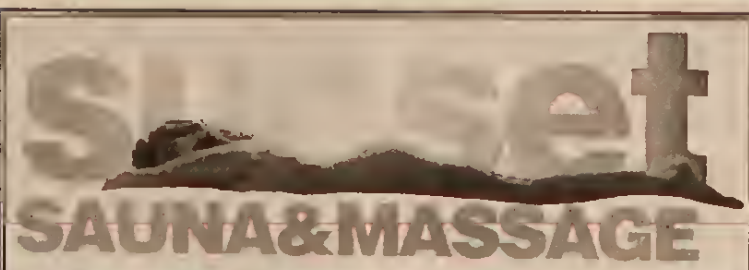
To consolidate job-placement and -training programs, I propose the creation of a single clearing-house for the wide array of services available. I will direct the departments of Human Services and Public Health; the Redevelopment Agency; the Mayor's Offices of Community Development and Children, Youth and Families; and the Private Industry Council to consolidate all their separately funded and administered job-training and -placement programs into a single, one-stop facility. I will also create a city employee re-training program that will allow our city workers to move more easily into new assignments when current ones become obsolete.

Winning designers



Photo: Karen Preuss

Two City students have been named winners of the T-shirt design contest sponsored by the UCSF/Mount Zion Pediatrics Group. Alisa Baringolts, 9, a Richmond District resident (left), won second place in the contest and won a gift certificate for art supplies. Pictured with Baringolts is Wendy Wu, 14, who won first prize, and Carl Johnson, a doctor and assistant clinical professor of pediatrics at the medical center, who congratulated them both.



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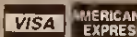
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Woman's barbershop chorus strives for harmony

Sweet Adelines moves to St. John's Church

by Adrienne Y. Brazelton

Listening to the 24 members of the San Francisco Sweet Adelines who came to the July 25 rehearsal at St. John's Presbyterian Church was an education both in musical harmony and sisterly support. The women, ranging in age from 22 to 76, sang together with enthusiasm and style, each one revealing a bit of her soul as her voice rose and body moved to rhythms created in song.

The energetic and witty music director, Kira Prewitt, led the chorus from the floor, pointing her fingers at different voice groups to time their entrance into a song.

Although missing about a third of their members from this particular rehearsal because of bad weather and traffic, those who came were in good spirits. Many of the singers carried small tape recorders, loaded and ready to receive their homework for the coming week. And, although dedicated to training their voices, the members were still very welcoming to the 10 guests who sang with them, often whispering a helpful hint or two during vocal exercises.

Prewitt explained proper stance and breathing to the



The San Francisco chapter of Sweet Adelines International currently has about 30 members ranging from 22 to 76 years of age. The Sweet Adelines performed a song for prospective new members at St. John's Presbyterian Church, at Lake Street and Arguello Boulevard, on July 25. The four-part harmony chorus knows about 20 songs.

guests, suggesting they rock their weight between the front and back of their feet to keep their internal pipes pumped and ready to go. "Your body is an instrument," she declared, "and it can't stop at your hips. Bend your knees lightly and move with the song!" The singers shuffled, found their footing and swayed together while their voices lifted.

"The wonderful thing about music is that the chorus, where we are today, is far above where we were two years ago," says Prewitt. "They're in a wonderful place, but they won't be in the same place six months from now.

"The tendency of the human instrument is to assimilate to the current level," the music director states with surety. As new members join, she explains, they learn what it takes to be part of the chorus.

This local chapter of Sweet Adelines International represents just one-thousandth of the group's global membership, numbering 30,000 in more than 650 choruses. The United States has 32 regions now, but their boundaries and number change according to necessity. The San Francisco Sweet Adelines Chorus belongs to Region 12, which currently extends from Santa Cruz to the Oregon border and from the ocean to the California-Nevada border, including Reno.

Prewitt remembers the first time she saw a Sweet Adelines performance. Even coming from a background of musical theater, she thought, "This is a blast! Auditory as well as visual!"

Hand gestures are used to emphasize lyrics, and the music director encourages all members to practice with a mirror while



Photos: Darrell Wong

Kira Prewitt, director of SF Sweet Adelines, practices the song "With One Look" from the musical "Sunset Boulevard." Prewitt has been with the group for nine years and the director of the chapter for three.

singing, to study the relationship between the emotions shown in the face and the way they project into the voice.

Harmonizing is a result of mixing four voice parts: tenor, lead, baritone and bass. But, says Prewitt, "The fundamental thing about barbershop singing is creating overtones. There is a concern with technical perfection in barbershop singing."

For example, pianos are not conducive to creating overtones. Among the Sweet Adelines, a pitch pipe is used to tune their voices in a method called Pythagorean tuning. Prewitt explains, "Each scale member is tuned either a certain number of cycles higher or lower than mean tuning to enhance the overtones."

One major difference created by this tuning method is a greater complexity of notes than, say, church choir singing. For one thing, Prewitt says, the harmonies are different. Church songs operate on a four-note, three-chord harmony while barbershop singing uses seven chords. The music demands close coordination and good listening

abilities, which only enhance the sense of community. As one singer said, "There are no stars here. We are all stars."

Marge Zellas, the local chapter president, says of their small regular membership, "San Francisco is a very difficult place to get things going. It's so cultural! There are so many other things people are doing."

She recalls one ceremony in which then-Mayor Dianne Feinstein was declared an honorary member of their chorus to boost themselves into the public eye. The surrounding publicity helped the group reach a membership of about 80 women, their all-time high.

Then, said Zellas with a sigh, their music director of 14 years had to leave because of a job transfer. As a result, more than half of their members strayed to other, closer Sweet Adelines chapters or dropped singing altogether.

Since Prewitt began directing music for the chapter, Zellas said, they have begun building membership once again. However, their first concentrated recruitment effort begins Oct. 24, when the Sweet Adelines will welcome non-members to participate in Holiday Harmony '96, a six-week program culminating in a Dec. 7 and 8 Christmas extravaganza. The headliners for the show are the Chicago Fire Quartet, who won the 1995 Sweet Adelines Quartet Championship at its annual international competition and were crowned Queens of Harmony.

To participate in Holiday Harmony '96, non-members will pay a one-time only fee of \$10, which will cover song copyrights. Regular members of Sweet Adelines pay monthly dues of \$25, which are used for many related expenses.

"Not only do they pay for visitor plane fares and competition fees, but they also cover special

Continued on page 9

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Summer ballet offers unique opportunity for youth

by Zaza Urbanek

"This summer, I don't get to sleep late and I think it's much better for me," says Richmond District resident, Dustin Digiulio, who weighs his words with a seriousness unusual for a 12-year-old.

Is it because he has been a dancer-student of the San Francisco Ballet School (SFBS) for the last four years and knows how much work it takes to be really good at dancing? Many of Digiulio's dreams and efforts seem to converge on one goal: to become a professional dancer in a company.

"Summer school at SFBS is great because I can stay in great shape and be ready to do my best this fall," Digiulio says.

Anise Gold-Watts, 11, also likes summer school at SFBS. "It's really cool to meet new students. Some are really good, it's a good challenge for me," she says.

Summer school for Gold-Watts happens in the afternoon. Three times a week she travels from her Sunset District home to the ballet school.

The atmosphere at SFBS is inspiring for students and visitors alike. The \$13-million state-of-the-art facility on Franklin Street offers more than 17,000 square feet of rehearsal accommodations and most of the rooms receive natural daylight.

"The school and the company are in the same building," says Pam Lord, San Francisco Ballet public relations coordinator. "Children in the hallway peek in

Adelines

Continued from page 6

tutoring costs and the director's salary," said Zellas, who during her 18 years with the group has been, at times, treasurer.

As a non-profit organization, the president said, Sweet Adelines is committed to performing without charge in convalescent homes and similar settings.

"They might fall asleep in their chairs," Zellas said with a twinkle in her pale blue eyes, "but they still get a kick out of seeing and hearing us."

doors and windows of the rehearsal studios." Often in awe of the company members, the young dancers get a glimpse of the life of the professionals.

The six-week summer program at SFBS not only allows year-round ballet students like Digiulio and Gold-Watts to keep in shape and improve their dancing skills, but it also invites ballet students from around the world and other ballet schools across the country to study with a prestigious faculty of professional dancers.

Of the 225 students enrolled this summer, 20 live in the Richmond District.

Students from the Inner Richmond District (zip code 94118) are: Digiulio; Eric Bernacki; Josephine Bloomfield; Adam Chang-Jiang; Kathryn Duryea; Sonia Evers; Leah Ficarola; Katie Herman; Diana Lam; Artem (Tom) Margulis and Brett Womwack.

Students living west of 17th Avenue (zip code 94121) in the Outer Richmond District are: Vivian Chiu; Anthony Dang; Christina Diefenbach; Jeremy Gibbs; Leah, Sean and Stephanie Orza; Robert Sugiyama and Steven Yan.

"I like pointing my feet and jumping in arabesques from one corner of a room to the other," Richmond District resident Sonia Evers says.

At 10 she seems very mature. She is eloquent and full of life. Even though she is also a full-time SFBS student and wants to be a professional dancer one day, she also would like to be an author. "I write what comes to my mind, sometimes ballet stories. I've written quite a few stories," she says.

Evers' tranquil energy and sweet disposition are noticeable. "My classmates are my friends, I don't compete with them," she says. "If anything, I compete with myself and I work as hard as I can."

Students are placed in one of eight divisions according to age, experience and ability. There are many classes, from technique, pointe work, pas de deux, music theory and nutrition, explains Lord.

The most critical juncture for SFBS students occurs following



Photo: Darrell Wong

Dustin Digiulio won a scholarship to study ballet at the SF Ballet School. Digiulio won the award in the fourth grade and is currently in his fourth year of ballet.

completion of "Level Four." As the class hours get longer, students need to commit more time, which sometimes means cutting regular school time.

"Next year, as I will hopefully complete my level," Digiulio says, "I will have to choose a path where I make a commitment to dancing."

For the moment Digiulio plays soccer and baseball and swims. "I like dancing the most," he says. "I get to express power with grace. I like the strength when I dance. The smallest move

takes so much effort. I like that I can get to express my feelings when I dance."

Digiulio's practices each step with an eagerness and a confidence that even Jim Sohm notices. The SFBS administrative manager recommended Digiulio so highly to the company that he got a dancing part in the production of "Prince Igor" this year.

To build a bridge between the classroom and the stage, SFBS offers the best youth the opportunity to perform with the San Francisco company. Each year,

more than 70 students are selected for "The Nutcracker."

Performing before a live audience instills more confidence in young students. For outstanding students, there are more performance opportunities. Both Evers and Gold-Watts performed in "Swan Lake" as well as "The Nutcracker."

Half of the students at SFBS attend on scholarships, thanks to donations. Many say they work hard, but the rewards of ballet are many. If not everyone makes it to fame, the thrill and hard work of participating in a noble endeavor make it all worth the effort.

And because the youth are expected to do their best and to behave in a physically demanding curriculum, discipline and determination are instilled and carried throughout their lives.

SFBS will hold free auditions on Saturday, Aug. 3 at 1 p.m. for the 1996-97 school year, which starts Sept. 3.

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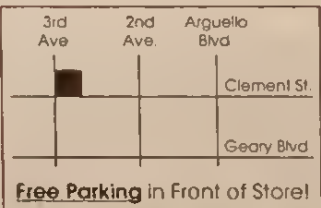
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Toxic cleanup continues at Presidio

Continued from page 1

the NPS, will be disposed of with all of the precautions mandated by federal entities such as the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act and Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The imposing, six-story former hospital was built in the 1930s and underwent extensive renovation and expansion during the 1950s. It closed in the 1980s, and for a while the 300,000-square-foot building housed the Defense Language Institute and the Asian Pacific School.

For years it stood vacant, suffering damage from the elements when its windows were broken. Now its state of dilapidation extends to its electrical, plumbing, architectural and mechanical systems.

The potential future uses of the site's six wings, basement, steam plant and multiple rooftop mechanical penthouses are still up in the air. The scenarios offered by the NPS range from



Photo: Philip Liborio Gangi

The closed Public Health Hospital at 15th Avenue and Lake Street has been proposed to be converted to a convention center or open space.

turning the site into a conference and educational facility, to tearing the whole thing down and restoring the site to open space.

Proposed uses for the complex include housing an international school, a conference center and a youth job training center to involve youths in public service or conservation corps initiatives.

One plan involves tearing down the 1950s addition and replacing it with a 20,000-square-foot structure. Lodging, dining and assembly spaces would be created by the rehabilitation of the 1930s structure.

The NPS also plans to reduce the amount of paved surface and re-landscape.

Plan to rehabilitate Mountain Lake

Continued from page 1

for a long time — you know how these projects drag on. And all the animals would be destroyed or displaced. I'd hate to see it upset."

But Donald and Yoshiko McFarland, frequent visitors to the park who live at Sixth Avenue and Geary Boulevard, say they probably won't come as often if the lake begins to get really swampy. They think the sacrifice should be made, and as many animals as possible saved before the construction gets underway.

"Just ignoring this won't do any good," Donald said, looking out across the shimmering water.

"The time to do it is now, not when it becomes critical. It'll be faster in and faster out, and less expensive, if it's done now. Over time, the ecosystem will bounce back. But obviously, something's got to be done."

For her part, Yoshiko, a native of Japan, recalled the yearly communal cleanup along the river where she used to live, and suggested that the same principle be applied to the lake, to keep it free of reeds and brambles following a dredging.

"Over time, the community spirit ... would grow to be more important than the lake itself," she said.

Tucked into a remote corner of the Richmond District, and fed by a natural granite aquifer, Mountain Lake (officially known as Laguna de Loma Alta or Lake of the High Hill, named by Juan Bautista de Anza in 1776) is an oasis of calm in the bustling city.

Children fish there, hoping to land one of the huge carp that swim within sight of the shore, a pair of swans basks lazily on the grass, a statuesque great blue heron stands on a distant stump and even a small alligator, released by some guilty pet owner, plies the lakes' gently lapping waters. Ducks, frogs, turtles and various kinds of fish also call the lake home.

Located just north of Lake Street where it runs into Park Presidio Boulevard, the triangular lake is bordered on the south by the park, on the east by a grove of eucalyptus trees (part of the Presidio Golf Course) and on the west by the rushing traffic of Park Presidio Boulevard — effectively screened by fencing,

trees and brambles.

Scores of people use the park, which includes an extensive jungle gym for children, plenty of shady benches for elderly residents, tennis courts, a grassy expanse for frisbee or pickup softball, an exercise trail, a small basketball court and an open-sided shelter accommodating about eight tables where men sit playing dominoes in the afternoon, mostly murmuring in Russian.

But urban pressures, including contaminants from the nearby golf course and highway, trash and plenty of extra bread tossed to the fish and birds, have in recent years increased the lake's algae count to dangerous levels lethal to fish — the lake has become so rich in nutrients that it is strangling on its own success.

If dredging equipment were to be used on Mountain Lake, which is currently no more than 10 feet deep, it could expand the lake to its original depth of about 30 feet and extend the shore to its earlier reaches.

According to Mountain Lake Project Coordinator Amy Lambert of the National Park Service, which recently took charge of the Presidio, private funds could be used for the dredging project — or on the other hand, dredging might be avoided altogether. Among other alternatives, the lake could be dyed periodically to keep sunlight from penetrating the waters

and stimulating the algae growth.

Water quality monitoring and vegetation surveys may begin as early as this fall, and plans are in the works to design a boardwalk around the lake, providing new access where the old foot trails have been overgrown by brambles.

Lambert said no decisions have been made yet on the lake's fate, but a coalition of the Friends of Mountain Lake, Audubon Society, City of San Francisco's Public Works and Recreation and Park departments and the California Native Plant Society is seeking local input.

"It's just amazing how quickly the shape of the lake has changed in recent years," Lambert observed. "We want the community to turn out and help us with this."

Asked what he thought of the dredging idea, 10-year-old Mako Hampton, who frequently casts his line into Mountain Lake in hopes of catching a big fish, said:

"It wouldn't be as fun to come down here anymore. They should leave it alone until it gets really, really bad — then they could come in."

A neighborhood discussion with scientists and park staff on the lake's future will be held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Aug. 6 at the Sustainable Presidio Alliance Room, in Building 563 in the Presidio. More information is available from Amy Lambert, at 331-0771.

SFSU a big hit with Asian American students

For the second year in a row, San Francisco State University awarded more undergraduate degrees in business and management to Asian American students than any other university in the country, according to a survey by the publication "Black Issues in Higher Education."

SFSU, which was ranked seventh overall among all four-year

institutions in the number of Asian American students receiving baccalaureate degrees, awarded undergraduate degrees to 519 Asian American students in business and management in the 1992-93 academic year, the latest year covered by the survey.

In the class of 1996, 25.2 percent of the university's graduates were Asian American.

Tours going to Canada, Asia

Travel consultant, Alamo Elementary School volunteer coordinator, home economist and cooking teacher Marcella Gayle Chan will escort a tour group to Canada late September and one to Singapore and Hong Kong in December.

The 12-day "Canadian Mari-

times Explorer Tour," from Sept. 28 to Oct. 9, will start in Boston.

A 13-day tour of Singapore and Hong Kong, Dec. 26 to Jan. 7, 1997, includes sightseeing, special meals and cooking classes.

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It was a dark and foggy Sunday evening when Hanns and I ventured forth (timidly) to experience our first Moroccan restaurant. Hostess and waitress Houda Tanverakul at El Mansour made us feel like cherished guests in her home, and it didn't take long to convert us to Moroccan food. Her husband and head chef, Jack Tanverakul, was born in Thailand and has lived here for many years.

Houda explained to us that in the 10 years they've had the restaurant, their goal has always been to create an authentic Moroccan dining experience — complete with traditional low tables and high cushions to sit on and lean back alongside two long parallel walls, and soft-tooled leather hassocks to seat more diners. Rich-looking and -feeling fabrics are used, from the neutral billowing silk hung from the ceiling (like the tent of a very wealthy Moroccan, as we remember from old Hollywood movies) to beautiful brass plates on the walls and exotic hanging light fixtures with romantic low lighting for all. This is definitely a restaurant for a romantic evening!

The courses seem cooked to order, filling us to sit back and relax, comment on all manner of subjects or just listen to wonderful Moroccan music playing discreetly in the background. We unfortunately just missed a belly dancer later in the evening.

And now to the meal. Houda poured warm water over our hands from a fabulous silver service after giving generously sized terry towels with which to wipe our hands and spread over our laps! Since it was obvious there was not a fork or spoon to be had (we asked). We were offered warm and soothing mint tea — resembling a liquid form of spearmint gum!

Then came the best lentil soup we've had to date. Not nearly as heavy as the German/Austrian/Swiss varieties, this was light with just a hint of lemon and spices. Along with soup came a generous, warm chunk of bread (French?) with which to eat soup and salads, the second course. Served on one plate, there are mounds of ground eggplant, a salsa-like but not spicy mixture, marinated raw carrots and cucumbers, all to be scooped up with the bread. We later learned that Houda bakes the bread fresh each day!

Then came Hanns' favorite

Where recycled materials end up

By David Assmann
SF Recycling
Program Coordinator

Have you ever wondered what actually happens to all those cans, bottles, junk mail and newspapers after your recyclables get picked up?

In 1995, we collected more than 45,000 tons of recyclables — three-fourths of it was paper and the rest was cans and bottles.

Although we only separate our recyclables into two categories on the curb (paper and containers), they must be sorted

Best Bites

El Mansour

Ginny Kolmar

dish of all — Bastela du Chef, described as an appetizer. The filling has chicken, almonds and subtle spices, all enclosed in a thin baked or fried phyllo dough, which is then embossed with a pretty pattern of powdered sugar. Even with the chicken, it could have been served as a dessert.

After a bit of a wait, while we looked at each other and wondered where in the world we could find room for entrees and desserts, on came the main meal. Out of necessity, the meats are cooked so that even with two weak fingers, one can separate meat, seafood or fowl from bones.

My Chicken with Honey and Prunes was delicious and oh so sweet. The marinade on the plate had a sweet-sour taste and complimented the dish very well. Hanns gave his approval to Lamb with Eggplant. He was able to finish the whole course, while I reluctantly left almost half of mine — especially since Houda insisted we try her couscous, which we have had elsewhere in the past without a great deal of pleasure. It's true, hers is better than we had experienced, but the jury's still out on couscous for us!

As soon as the dishes were cleared, Houda poured us more mint tea — now one of our favorites. She gave the table a good wash, followed by more of the same to our hands with that wonderful warm water and a few drops of rosewater on our now unstuck fingers.

Then came our dessert: two small pieces of bananas in honey and Chabbakia, a small round cutout of dough, fried, covered with powdered sugar and tasting quite like the same-shaped Danish and Swedish sweets.

One nice surprise was reading prices on the menu. We ordered from the right side, so that humongous amount of food de-

scribed above was for all of \$17.75, plus more if you order beer or wine, which we didn't. It includes all the above with various choices for your entree.

Have couscous with lamb and veggies, or with chicken and veggies, or with brochette (bite-sized lamb and vegetables cooked and served on a skewer). Also available are the same choices with chicken and most all the descriptions above plus a few more, such as prunes. Same with lamb — served with honey and almonds, almonds or lemons. Lamb also comes with olives, lemons and olives, eggplant, prunes, onions or veggies. Separate offerings are Rabbit with Paprika or Brochette Kabob.

The other alternatives are on the left side of the menu. Only \$19.75 per person for Moroccan Seafood (prawns and scallops), Rabbit Kabob, Lamb & Chicken with Almonds, Lamb & Brochette Kabob or Vegetarian du Chef.

All entrees are served with lentil soup, homemade bread, combination salad, Bastela du Chef (that fabulous pastry appetizer), couscous, dessert and, of course, incomparable mint tea! Wine and beer prices are modest in price.

Now that we know how good authentic Moroccan cooking can be, we'll bring all our out-of-town guests here. Children particularly will enjoy eating everything with their hands (except soup, which comes in a bowl to be held with both hands). Hanns only wished he had a fork and knife, having been raised strictly in Europe never to eat with his fingers!

But he will overlook that particular criticism, since the food is so terrific.

El Mansour, 2123 Clement St. (at 32nd Avenue), 751-2312. Dinner: seven days a week, 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. (reservations suggested). Wheelchairs accommodated.

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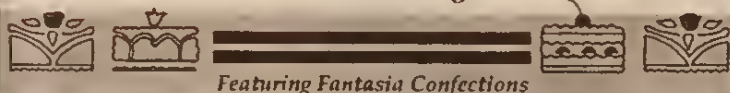
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With the real estate market picking up steam these last few months and the buyers coming back into the market, people are asking, "How much should I be offering for a particular property?" I would like to discuss this question and dispel some fallacies associated with the myths around real estate pricing.

The market price for any given property is the price that a willing, ready and able buyer is willing to pay for that property. Sometimes it is the same as the appraised value and sometimes not.

An appraiser looks at recent sales data and makes adjustments to them to develop an appraised value for a property. He or she also reviews trends to see whether values are going up or down in that particular area. However, appraisals are more art than science and sometimes they can be off because they are looking at past data. This is especially true when the market is changing rapidly.

For example, in the late 1980s during periods of rapid appreciation in San Francisco, the ap-



What is a property's true value?

John M. Lee

praisals were coming in low because the appraisers were using comparable sales from several months ago and properties were appreciating at 2 percent to 3 percent a month.

In the early 1990s, when the market was declining, the appraisals were coming in higher than the market value and sellers were upset that they could not get their appraised value.

So then how can a buyer establish a fair market value for a property?

Start by asking a reputable real estate agent to prepare a list of homes which sold in the immediate area recently. This list should include address, date sold, room counts, square footage, list price, sales price and condition of the home.

Drive around to look at the exterior of these homes and note any unusual features they might have. Look at as many available homes for sale in the immediate area and compare them to the home with the interest in. Then a perceived fair market value for the home can be ventured.

Then establish a value at which the property could be purchased by the buyer.

Some buyers work with the principle that negotiations start by offering a price 10 percent below the asking price. In some parts of the country, some might even start by offering 20 percent below the asking price.

In San Francisco, the gap between the sales price and the asking price has been approximately 5 percent, fairly consistent through the years. This does not mean that if a seller sets a listing price, they will get a sales price 5 percent below what the property is listed for. It means that when their listing price is within 5 percent of the market price, the property owner should start getting offers and sell the property.

But a seller can set their asking price at whatever they want. Because of emotional attachment, some real estate agents will list it at a higher price at the request of the seller.

Sometimes a seller will tend to retain the service of an agent who suggests a price agreeable to the seller. So sometimes a listing price is not a significant number because it is out of line and is not truly indicative of the market price.

Sometimes, when the asking price is too high, and the buyer comes in with an offer at the market price and the seller accepts it, the buyer feels good because he got a big discount off the asking price. However, they should not feel that way, because the seller priced it too high to begin with.

Sometimes, the seller will say, "I came down so much already." However, he was that much too high to start with. So the fixed percentage off the asking price offer is not a good method to use because it assumes that all the sellers are listing their properties at a certain percentage, on or above the market price.

From experience, I have found that the seller will get the best and highest price if they list their property at market value. They will get their properties sold at market value with the least

amount of inconvenience to them.

Sellers often ask, "Isn't it better to price the property higher and then allow room for negotiation? The buyers can always make an offer!"

Let's put on the

buyer's shoes for a moment. If I, as the buyer, see two identical properties, same condition, same general location, but priced \$10,000 apart, which one do you think I will put an offer on first? Obviously, the one with the lower price. The home priced lower will get sold, and the one with the higher price just might never receive an offer even if the seller is willing to accept \$10,000 less.

The other question buyers often ask is, "Let's find out about the seller's situation. Maybe they are desperate to sell and we can get a deal." The idea behind this question is if the sellers are anxious, such as if they are getting a divorce or facing foreclosure, they might be more motivated to sell at a lower price.

However, let me remind you that the value of the property is in the real estate, not in the circumstances behind the sale. I have come across sales where the sellers are getting divorced, and the spouses are fighting against each other so hard that one spouse insists on a high price, just so that the home would not sell, to get back at the other spouse. Just remember that the market value of a home does not depend on the seller's situation, but on the real estate.

Most people think that probates, foreclosures and auctions are great deals.

However, the San Francisco real estate market is fairly sophisticated and very efficient. Even in these cases, the sales prices tend to get bid up to the fair market value because there are so many buyers in this marketplace.

As with many things in life, there are no sure things. Establishing a market value on a property, as I have mentioned earlier, is more of an art than a science. You just have to gather and digest the market's information and, along with the help of your real estate professional, develop the fair market value and go with it.

John M. Lee graduated from UCLA with an MBA and is a top-selling agent at Prudential California Realty in San Francisco. If you have questions regarding real estate, call him at 682-6640.

The Richmond ReView

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Conquering the dunes



Photo courtesy of Greg Gaar collection

This picture of the Richmond District was taken from Lone Mountain, looking north-westerly, in 1912. In the background is the Presidio Army Post and just left of center St. John's Presbyterian Church, at Lake Street and Arguello Boulevard, can be seen. The circular drive for the mostly undeveloped Presidio Terrace is behind St. John's Church.

Letters to the Editor

Editor: I have proposed that the City of San Francisco restructure its government to create a "Department of Neighborhood Services" to provide better delivery of services to our residents. This legislation was introduced in response to the many complaints received by my office. On May 28, as chair of the Select Committee on Charter Implementation, I introduced a working proposal for the creation of a DNS. The Select Committee members seek input from all city residents, departments and employee organizations in the complex but exciting process of designing the department. The mission of DNS will be to provide better customer service, improved communication between city government and city residents, and a higher level of accountability and responsiveness on the part of city government.

street cleaning, sidewalk maintenance, graffiti removal, tree maintenance, nuisance abatement, assistance in navigating the permit process, code enforcement, neighborhood revitalization, park and recreation activities, planning activities, community policing and after-school activities. Meetings will be held in numerous neighborhoods and with all interested neighborhood groups. Questions to be posed: "How can neighborhoods and city government work together more effectively?" and "What do you need and how can city government provide it to you?" The Select Committee may also form a citizens advisory committee and/or seek the assistance of community working groups. By the end of this process, I hope to launch a responsive new department designed by our entire community. **Barbara Kaufman**
San Francisco Supervisor

reaches in the immediate vicinity of your store be passed over (for other publications) in advertising your opening on Fillmore Street. I was led to believe that Smith & Hawken had a corporate value system that included supporting the communities you do business in and I'm a little curious as to why that seems to leave out supporting the paper that for the last 10 years has formed the foundation of that community here. I find it a little ironic that when your store manager made a presentation to the merchants association here, he said he was pleased to assure its members that Smith & Hawken was "not just another Gap." The irony is Don Fisher and The Gap in the last few years have consistently used advertising to support neighborhood papers — not just The New Fillmore but 10 other neighborhood papers in San Francisco — because Fisher realizes that healthy neighborhood papers and the sense of community they create are vital to the economic well-being of the neighborhoods in which he does business and wishes to continue to do business. There is a growing hostility toward chain stores in San Francisco. You have done your company no service by creating the impression that you are indifferent to supporting the kind of community the local publishers in this City represent. **David Ish**
Publisher, The New Fillmore

Editor's note: The following open letter to Smith & Hawken ran in the August issue of The New Fillmore, a fellow member of the SF Neighborhood Newspaper Association. Because the growth of chain stores is a controversial matter in San Francisco, we are reprinting it. **Smith & Hawken,** It was certainly galling to The New Fillmore and its neighborhood supporters to have its core market of 40,000 readers that it

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August Calendar of Events

1-4

Transylvania Open: Irwin Memorial Blood Centers recruits coed eight-member teams to compete in an annual volleyball tourney. Tourney held Sept. 7, 9 a.m., Golden Gate Park's Speedway Meadow. Ten blood donations must be made in a team's name by Aug. 31, though not necessary by team members. Register at 567-6400 Ext. 456 or (800) IRWIN-11 Ext. 456.

City Chorus: The SF City Chorus, a SF Recreation and Park Department project, auditions men and women who can sight-read music and sing well. Rehearsals held Wednesdays mid-August to mid-November, 7-9:30 p.m., UCSF, 513 Parnassus Ave. 765-SONG.

Women's Chorus: The local chapter of Sweet Adelines International meets regularly to practice women's barbershop harmony singing. Thursdays, 7 p.m., St. John's Presbyterian Church, 25 Lake St. 665-7960.

Boys' Chorus: The non-profit Golden Gate Boys Choir and Bellringers accepts new members, ages 7 and up with unchanged voices; no experience needed. Rehearsals and auditions held at St. Mary's Cathedral Choir Room, 1111 Gough St. 431-1137.

Fishy Business: The Steinhart Aquarium replaced its dolphin and harbor seal exhibit last month with a new permanent display of small tropical reef sharks and fish. California Academy of Sciences. 750-7145.

Ceramics Sale: Helen Ludwig's senior and disabled students at the Richmond Senior Center exhibit and sell their ceramic works. Ongoing, Glendale Bank, 6100 Geary Blvd.

Plant Portraits: Martha Kemp's

"Portraits of Flowering Plants," a collection of graphite pencil works, is on display at the Helen Crocker Russell Library. Through August, Strybing Arboretum & Botanical Gardens. Free. 661-0668.

Monumental Paintings: "The Measure of All Things: Paintings by Irving Norman" is a collection of 18 large works by a late Bay Area artist depicting human suffering during the past century. Through Oct. 20, M.H. de Young Memorial Museum. 863-3330.

Music and Dance: Linda Tillery and the Cultural Heritage Choir play traditional African-American music Aug. 2, and dance troupe ODC/SF explores the history and roles of American women Aug. 9. Noon-1 p.m., California Academy of Sciences auditorium. Free after admission. 750-7145.

Gem Fair: The SF Gem & Mineral Society Inc.'s annual show glitters with carving demonstrations, lectures, sales and club members' exhibits. Aug. 3-4, 10 a.m., SF County Fair Building. \$3 and \$3.50. 546-4230.

Cultural Arts: The Traditional Arts program has professionals showcase Russian costumes Aug. 3, Greek folk dance Aug. 10, street theater Aug. 24, and Pakistani music Aug. 31. Different arts are presented on selected Saturdays each month, 1 p.m., California Academy of Sciences auditorium. Free after admission. 750-7145.

Mime Show: The SF Mime Troupe performs "Soul Suckers From Outer Space" — a science-fiction whodunit set in a 1950s state town where neighbors love each other until the "Big One" brings social shifts instead of seismic ones. Aug. 3-4, music 1:30 p.m. and show 2 p.m., Golden Gate Park's Sunken Meadow. Free. 285-1717.



Photo: Dong Lin

White tip reef sharks are among the small tropical fish gliding through the coral reef habitat of the Steinhart Aquarium's newest permanent exhibit, "Sharks of the Tropics." For information, call the California Academy of Sciences at 750-7145. The aquarium is located across from the de Young Museum in Golden Gate Park.

Park Restoration: The SF Recreation and Park Department sponsors a work party in Golden Gate Park's native oak woodland for removal of invasive plants. Aug. 4, 10 a.m.-noon, meet at the front steps of the Conservatory of Flowers. 566-1876.

Jewish Holiday: Congregation Sherith Israel presents Barefoot in the Park: A Tu b'Av Celebration — featuring klezmer music, food, sports, games and Israeli dancing in honor of friendship, romance, renewal and creativity. Aug. 4, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Golden Gate Park's Marx Meadow. \$5. 346-1720 Ext. 29.

5-11

Family Communication: UCSF/Mount Zion Pediatric & Teen Services teaches drop-in workshops for parents, grand-

parents, care-givers and youths on conflict resolution, academic success, teamwork and community resources. Tuesdays Aug. 6-Oct. 1, 5:30-7:30 p.m., 2330 Post St., Suite 320. Free. 885-7742.

Mountain Lake Forum: Scientists, National Park Service staff and volunteers discuss the future of Mountain Lake, which is impacted by urban development and contaminants. Aug. 6, 7-9 p.m., Presidio Building 563, first floor, Sustainable Presidio Alliance Room; enter through Lombard Street gate, take first left on Ruger Street and look for first building on the right. 331-0771.

Tapigami Man: Families enjoy watching the tap-dancing and origami-folding Tapigami Man. Aug. 8, 4 p.m., Richmond Branch Library, 351 Ninth Ave., 666-7021; Aug. 10, 1:30 p.m., 550 37th Ave., 666-7160. Free.

Roses Summer-ized: At the next monthly meeting of the SF Rose Society Inc., Bruce Phillips gives a rundown on how to care for roses during summer months. Aug. 10, noon, SF County Fair Building. Free. 436-0497.

Austen Addicts: Elizabeth Newark discusses the works of author Jane Austen. Aug. 10, 2

p.m., Park Branch Library, 1833 Page St. Free. 666-7155.

Music Swap: Cassettes, records and compact discs are haggled over, bought, sold and bartered at the quarterly KUSF Rock 'n Swap, which helps the college station make studio upgrades. Aug. 11, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., USF McLaren Hall, 2130 Fulton St. \$2. 386-KUSF.

Indian Festival: The Festival of the Chariots, an Indian religious parade, starts in Golden Gate Park's Polo Fields and ends at Sharon Meadow, where the Festival of India offers food, exhibits and dancing that follow Krishna Consciousness philosophy. Aug. 11, 11 a.m. Free.

Park Tour: Friends of Recreation & Parks leads a tour of Golden Gate Park's historical Music Concourse, the site of the 1894 Midwinter Exposition. Aug. 11, 1-2 p.m., meet at the pedestal map in front of the Japanese Tea Garden. Free. 221-1311.

12-18

Fuchsias Galore: The American Fuchsia Society's Scott Massey talks about flower baskets filled

Continued on page 15

Richmond District YMCA School Starts August 28!

Fall Programs Include:

GRADE SCHOOL AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS

- Pick up from schools
- Tutoring
- Special classes (soccer, piano)
- Field trips

MIDDLE SCHOOL AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS

- Judo classes
- Sports league (soccer, basketball)
- Tutoring
- Earth service corps.

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE CLUB

- Friday night club meetings and activities
- Weekend trips

HIGH SCHOOL

YOUTH & GOVERNMENT

- Model court and legislature program
- Roles include judge, congress members, print and video media, lawyers, lobbyist and more
- Write your own bill and pass it through a congress of your peers at the capitol in Sacramento

FITNESS & SPORTS

- Y-Hoops basketball league
- Fitness/work out club at the YMCA

For more information call Kari Lee at 666-9622

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The YMCA of San Francisco, based in Judeo-Christian values, seeks to enhance the lives of all people through programs designed to develop spirit, mind and body. Financial aid to the extent possible is made available through generous donors.



The Park Presidio Lions Club is a non-profit group that provides eye care for the blind and visually impaired. Every dollar raised goes to this cause.

Join us for lunch on the first and third Wednesdays of the month — your heart will feel lighter.

Next lunch date: August 7 & 21 at noon
Lunch: \$12

Park Presidio Lions
Meets at Thiggy's at Lincoln Park
34th Ave. and Clement St.

Calendar of events

Continued from page 14

with fuchsias and hanging moss. Aug. 12, 8 p.m., SF County Fair Building. Free. 664-0917.

Business Networking: The Women's Network of SF provides a casual yet intimate setting the second Tuesday of each month for 20 women, who provide different services or products; the Action Network of SF, a similar networking group for 20 men and women, meets the third Tuesday of each month at the same location. Aug. 13, 6-9:30 p.m., 2131 Lyon St. \$20 includes buffet supper. Register at 776-0571.

Talk on Phelan: The SF Historical Society presents Professor James P. Walsh in a slide presentation on James Duval Phelan — former city mayor and U.S. senator. Aug. 13, 8 p.m., UCSF/Laurel Heights, 3333 California St., second floor. Free. 861-5058.

AIDS Awareness: Project Inform holds a public forum on new HIV therapies, as well as gives an update on the XI International Conference on AIDS. Aug. 15, 6:30-9 p.m., UCSF/Laurel Heights conference center, 3333 California St. Free: 558-8669.

Art Classes: Sharon Art Studio registers students of all ages and levels for fall lessons in drawing, watercolor, stained and fused glass, jewelry and ceramics. Aug. 16, registration for ceramics classes starts 9 a.m. and all others 10 a.m., Sharon Building near the Children's Carousel in Golden Gate Park. 753-7004.

Opera at the Carousel: The SF Opera performs Broadway and grand opera classics at an outdoor benefit for Golden Gate Park's restoration projects; festive, party dress. Aug. 16, 6-9 p.m., Children's Carousel near the Sharon Building. \$85 and \$95. Reserve at 750-5442.

Ocean Exhibit: The Smithsonian Institution's "Ocean Planet" is swimming in computer animation, sculptures, artifacts and photographs that explore environmental threats to the oceans. Aug. 17-Nov. 10, Herbst International Exhibition Hall, Presidio Main Post. \$3 and \$4. 561-5050 or http://seawifs.gsfc.nasa.gov/ocean_planet.html.

AIDS Grove Work: Volunteers meet monthly to landscape a large dell in the AIDS Memorial Grove that honors those who have dealt with the disease; wear work clothes, but tools and food provided. Aug. 17 and Sept. 21, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Golden Gate Park. Groups of 10 or more must register by calling 750-8340.

Poetry Workshop: Poet Sally Love Saunders unlocks the poet within in a fun way, helping to gain refreshing insights into everyday experiences; bring poetry to share. Aug. 17, 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m., UCSF, 513 Parnassus Ave., Room S-182. \$5. 476-5222.

Sutro Stroll: A ranger gives a tour of Sutro Heights, once the home of Adolph Sutro. Aug. 17, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., meet at the Lion's Gate, 48th and Point Lobos avenues. Free. 556-8642.

Stand-Up Comedy: Sixteen top comics step up to the mic at the San Francisco Chronicle's 16th Comedy Celebration Day. Aug. 18, noon-4 p.m., Golden Gate Park's Sharon Meadow. Free. 777-8498 or <http://www.sfgate.com/chronicle/promotions/events.html>.

Greek Myths: Louis Lake Bryant, of Archaeo Club D'Italia, talks about Greek monsters and the Trojan War. Aug. 18, 2 p.m., USF Hamey Science Center, 2130 Fulton St., Room 232. Donation requested. (510) 232-1330.

Jazz Benefit: The Metropolitan League, a group dedicated to advancing enthusiasm for the SF Symphony, sponsors a jazz benefit for the symphony that stars vocalist Mary Stallings and the Don Pender Quartet; casual dress. Aug. 18, 4-7 p.m., Storyville night club, 1751 Fulton St. \$35 includes a Creole hors d'oeuvres buffet. Reserve at 775-4386.

Shipwrecks: A one-mile walk along Golden Gate shores provides a perspective on famous city shipwrecks; warm dress. Aug. 20, 10-11:30 a.m., meet at the south end of Baker Beach parking lot. Free. 561-4323.

Back to Nature: Through the "From Acorn to Oak Too" program, children ages 5-12 accompany their parents, grandparents and guardians in guided walks

and nature activities. Aug. 20-22, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Strybing Arboretum & Botanical Gardens. Free. Call 661-0822 to register for one of three dates.

Create Great Chemistry: Communications consultant Patricia Haddock explains how to establish rapport, understand and influence others, improve relationships and increase productivity. Aug. 20, noon-1 p.m., UCSF/Mount Zion Herbst Hall, 1600 Divisadero St. Free. 476-4394.

Police Meeting: Richmond Police Station officers discuss local issues with neighborhood residents at meetings that are held the third Tuesday of each month. Aug. 20, 7 p.m., Richmond Police Station community room, 461 Sixth Ave. Free. 553-1385.

Women's Suffrage: The SF Historical Society presents member and author Mae Silver in a talk on how California women won the right to vote in October 1911 — eight years before the 19th Amendment gave the rest of U.S. women the right. Aug. 22, 7:30 p.m., the Cannery, 2801 Leavenworth St., third floor. \$5. 750-9986.

Back to the Past: Walkers learn about Adolph Sutro by hiking trails and climbing the ruins of the Cliff House, Sutro Heights Park and Sutro Baths. Aug. 24, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., meet ranger outside Louis' Restaurant, 902 Point Lobos Ave. Free. 556-8642.

26-31

Breast Screening: The UCSF mammography van rolls into the neighborhood for 20-minute checkups of women with doctor's approval. Aug. 26-29, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., UCSF/Laurel Heights, 3333 California St. \$65. Register at 476-2193.

Garden Tour: The California Native Plant Society attends a tour of late-season flowers in the Arthur Menzies Native Plant Garden at the Strybing Arboretum & Botanical Gardens, followed by a slide show of the City's native flora. Aug. 28, 5:30 p.m., bring a bag dinner and meet in the parking lot behind the SF County Fair Building. Free. 752-2718 or 282-5066.

Richmond Republicans: The Richmond District Republican Club hosts Candidates Night for Republicans in San Francisco County. Aug. 29, 6:30 p.m., Richmond Police Station community room, 461 Sixth Ave. 386-2573.

Cooking Classes: HomeChef, a cooking school and kitchen store, teaches how to make a fall vegetable risotto at hour-long sample classes. Aug. 29 and 31, and Sept. 3, 4 and 7, 3525 California St. Free. Register at 668-3191.

Dine in the Park: A la Carte, A la Park serves up 50 restaurants, 20 wineries, 20 microbreweries, chefs' demonstrations and enter-

tainment. Aug. 31-Sept. 2, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Golden Gate Park's Sharon Meadow. \$5 and \$8. 383-9378.

Abracadabra: Tim the Enchanter charms families with magic and levitation. Aug. 31, 1 p.m., Anza Branch Library, 550 37th Ave. Free. 666-7160.

Shakespeare in the Park: The SF Shakespeare Festival presents "Love's Labour's Lost" — a comedy in which a king and his lords, having forsworn the company of women, are visited by a foreign princess. Weekends Aug. 31-Sept. 29 and Labor Day, 1:30 p.m., Golden Gate Park, just west of the Conservatory of Flowers. Free. 666-2221.



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19-25

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The Prudential California Realty

Recycling

Continued from page 11

further before they can be marketed. This is necessary because the recycling process is very different for each type of material collected.

Virtually all paper products accepted in the city's curbside program are separated into two categories. The first is comprised of newspaper and newspaper inserts. Most of this paper is sold to paper brokers who, in turn, sell it to overseas markets. This paper is usually shipped to Asia (often Korea, Indonesia or Taiwan) where it is repulped and turned into products like cardboard shoe boxes or roofing felt paper. Some of this paper is also turned into tissue paper.

The second category of paper products is mixed paper, which includes junk mail, cardboard and paper bags. This paper is generally sold to paper mills and container manufacturers here in California, where it returns as a cardboard product.

Aluminum cans and clean foil are shipped by truck to Sacramento before be-

ing sent to Tennessee by train. There they are turned back into aluminum cans and other aluminum products. Most aluminum cans today contain 55 percent recycled aluminum.

"Tin cans," steel cans with a thin coating of tin, collected by the San Francisco Recycling Program are baled and shipped to a mill near Stockton. Once the cans are shredded and cleaned, the tin is separated from the steel. The tin is used to manufacture new cans, pewter solder and bronze. The steel is sold to paint manufacturers, chemical companies and steel mills for remanufacture into steel products. Steel cans contain about 25 percent recycled steel.

Most glass bottles and jars collected in San Francisco are made back into bottles and jars right here in the Bay Area.

By contrast, plastic recycling is in its infancy. Although there are six main types of plastic, only one type (PET) has a national recycling rate of more than 10 percent, and the national recycling rate for all plastics is under 4 percent.

David Assmann is the public outreach coordinator for the SF Recycling Program.

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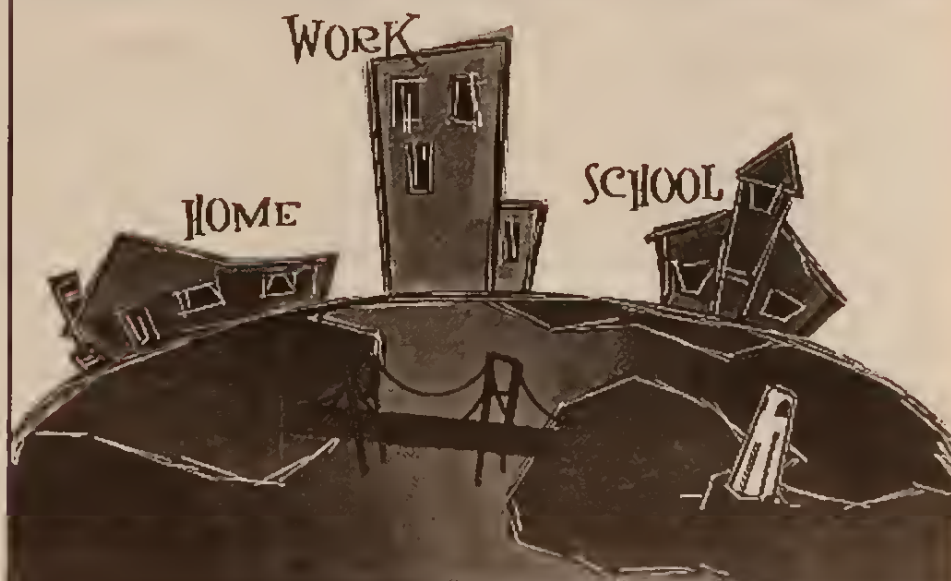
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